

July 18. 1766.

P. James Moir

Unto the Right Honourable the Lords of Council and Session,

P E T I T I O N

O F
James Moir, Schoolmaster in Edinburgh,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT a process was lately brought, at the petitioner's instance, against Robert Moir, sometime writer in Edinburgh, his immediate elder brother, and against John Moir his younger brother, and certain others of their nearest of kin on the father and mother's side, concluding against the said two defenders, That they should be ordained to exhibit and produce the deed of settlement executed by their deceased father; and that Robert Moir should be ordained to make up his titles under the settlement; and further to exhibit and produce all bonds, bills, or other securities made and granted by the said Robert Moir, to the said John Moir, all to be reduced, as having been elicited from the said Robert Moir, without any value, and when in a weak state of mind; and that the said Robert Moir should be judicially interdicted.

The petitioner, who has a wife and children, thought it an indispensable duty to his own family, as well as to his brother Robert, to bring this action, after having unsuccessfully tried every

See
 7th Aug 1766
 adhere.
 allowing
 Petitioner
 to proceed
 further. 10 p.m.
 by extract
 till November.

Robert. James. John.

every other method of getting his unfortunate brother put under proper management. But the fact is, that Robert has fallen entirely into the hands of John, the youngest brother, whose intention manifestly is to procure settlements from him in his own favour, to the prejudice of the petitioner's family, the natural heirs; and who is daily eliciting bonds and other deeds from him, by which, there is reason to believe, the poor man himself will, in a short time, be brought to poverty and ruin.

Feb. 4. 1766. The cause having come before the Lord Auchinleck Ordinary, comparance was made for Robert and his brother John; and the Lord Ordinary, by interlocutor of this date, "ordained the pursuer to give in a condescendence of the facts and circumstances from which he would infer the conclusion of having Robert Moir, the defender, judicially interdicted."

A condescendence was accordingly given in, importing in substance, That the father of the parties had left a small estate in Perthshire, called *Lochfield*, which he settled on his eldest son Robert, whom failing, on his second son, the petitioner, and his other heirs in the natural course of succession; and as the said Robert never was married, the petitioner would be entitled to succeed him in this small heritage, if the same was not squandered away during the life of Robert. That, about the 1751 or 1752, Robert fell into a disorder of mind, which made it necessary for some time to confine him; from which, however, he afterwards reconvalesced, so far as to be able to do some business as an extractor in Durie's office; but he soon after fell into such an habitual course of drinking, as rendered him quite unfit for business of any kind, and sunk him by degrees into a state of absolute weakness and incapacity, which still remained with him, and which rendered him altogether incapable of directing his own affairs; That though, when in a sound state of mind, he had a bad opinion of his brother John, and had differed with him, yet, in the above unhappy circumstances,

circumstances, he had fallen entirely under John's management, who, in the year 1760, procured a factory from him, in virtue of which he uplifted his rents, and had the entire disposal of his affairs. That Robert, in short, was altogether incapable to attend to his affairs, or to guard against imposition, being sometimes quite outrageous and unmanageable, at other times in a state of mere dotage and silliness.

Upon advising this condescendence with answers, the Lord Ordinary, of this date, pronounced the following interlocutor: "Finds the facts condescended upon are not such as prove prodigality or lavishment, which would make a process for a judicial interdiction proper; and therefore dismisses this process, reserving to the pursuer to have the defender's state of mind cognosed by a jury, upon a brieve of sanity or idiocy, as accords." To which interlocutor his Lordship, on advising a representation for the pursuer, of this date, adhered.

Feb. 22.
1766.

The petitioner offered a second representation, in which he submitted to the Lord Ordinary, that though there might be ground for a brieve of idiocy, yet, in a question among brothers, if the other method was equally competent, it was much more eligible, and attended with less expence; for which reason it was hoped his Lordship, on considering the case, would not disapprove of it, the more especially as the pursuer, in addition to his former condescendence, was now in condition to show, that Robert had in reality been practised upon, and that bonds and other deeds had been elicited from him, whereby his whole substance might be squandered, and not only his heirs deprived of their right of succession, but himself reduced to poverty and distress: Particularly, that there appeared on record two heritable bonds granted by him to his brother John, one of L. 230, dated in the 1762, the other of L. 310, dated in 1765, and therefore praying the Lord Ordinary, 1766, To appoint the defenders to produce their father's deed of settlement, the bonds executed by Robert in
circumstances
favour

March 7.
1766.

favour of John, the accounts or other transactions between them; and ordain John Moir to contest and on the value given for the above-mentioned bonds. To allow a proof to the pursuer of the defender's facility, and other facts tending to show that he is a weak, lavish man, unfit for the management of his affairs. And, lastly, upon such proof being brought, to lay the defender Robert Moir under judicial interdiction, and appoint a proper person to manage his affairs.

June 16.
1766.

The Lord Ordinary, on advising this representation, appointed it to be seen and answered, and the answers to set forth, what was the onerous cause of the bonds granted by Robert Moir to John Moir; and that within ten days. Along with the answers to this representation, the defenders produced a disposition of the lands of Lochfield, by James the father to Robert his eldest son, from which it appeared, that the lands were made over to him during his father's life, with the burden of an annuity to the mother, and provisions to the younger children; and under the condition of paying certain debts contracted by the father, conform to a signed list, also produced, amounting to £. 6032: 13: 4 Scots. It was also averred on the part of John, that he had taken no bonds from his brother, but for full value, and that he was possessed of a fitted account of charge and discharge between them, which he was willing to show to the agent for the pursuer.

June 25.
1766.

The Lord Ordinary, of this date, pronounced the following deliverance. "Allows the pursuer to see the answers and writs produced; and appoints John Moir to shew the account of charge and discharge, in consequence of which the bonds in question were granted, and to give him a copy of the same on the pursuer's expences, if the pursuer desire it, and this *quamprium*; and supercedes advising till Tuesday first, betwixt and which time the pursuer will put in any paper he is advised."

A copy of the account of charge and discharge was accordingly produced, but not the heritable bonds, or vouchers of the

the account. And his Lordship, of this date, pronounced July 4. 1766 the following interlocutor. "Having again considered this representation, with the answers and replies, adheres to the former interlocutor, and refuses the desire of the representation; reserving to the pursuer, in case the defender make settlements to his prejudice, to insist for having them reduced, upon account of his not being of a disposing mind, as accords, when the succession has by law opened to him."

The petitioner humbly craves a review of this interlocutor. The defender John Moir has indeed exhibited an account of charge and discharge, relative to his management of his brother's affairs; but it is an account, which, with great submission, he apprehends will appear to your Lordships to be most unsatisfactory, and will prove the necessity of prosecuting the measure which the petitioner has been advised to take. All that he has in view, is a fair inquiry into his brother's present situation and state of his affairs, in order that it may appear, whether he is under proper management or not. If things are rightly carried on, and no appearance of any imposition on Robert, or of eliciting gratuitous deeds from him, the petitioner has nothing farther to say. But if, on the other hand, it shall appear, in the first place, that Robert is in a state of absolute facility; and, secondly, that advantages are taken of him, and unfair deeds obtained, by which his estate may be evicted, and he himself reduced to beggary, as well as his heirs disappointed; there cannot surely be a doubt, that this is a relevant ground of interdiction.

An interdiction is defined by Lord Stair, "to be a kind of B. 4. tit. 58. inhibition, whereby a weak or lavish party obliges himself § 21. to do nothing in prejudice of his heritage, without consent of such persons who are called *Interdictors*, and who thereupon procure letters to inhibit him to act contrary to that interdiction; so it hath the same effect as another inhibition, if the party was truly weak or lavish." And from Dia. vol. 1. your Lordships decisions it is plain, that, in order to obtain an P. 480. 481. interdiction,

interdiction, it is not necessary to qualify or prove, that the person to be interdicted, is already brought to ruin; having squandered away his whole means and estate. It is enough to say, that he is lavish or weak, so that he is in danger of being imposed on, or of throwing away his substance improperly; and indeed the remedy would be of little use, if the whole mischief were already done.

These observations being premised, your Lordships will be pleased to take a look of the account of charge and discharge, hereto annexed; which contains two dockets bearing the same date, though they relate to transactions or clearances at the distance of three years from each other. The reason of this shall hereafter be explained: but in the mean time it will be observed from the contents of the first docket, that the defender John Moir took an heritable bond from his brother Robert, upon the 9th January 1762, for the sum of L. 230 Sterling, and in order to account for the value or onerous cause of this bond, he at the distance of three years, viz. on the 2d April 1765, makes up the account prefixed to the said docket, consisting of sundry articles of debts alleged to be due by Robert to him, amounting in whole to the sum for which the bond is granted.

But upon examining the articles in this first account, the whole of them seem to require explanation. The first article is a bill of L. 25, 12 s. 6 d. originally due to David Gourlay, and indorsed by him to John; and the second, third, and fourth articles are of the same nature, being bills originally due to other persons, and afterwards indorsed to John. The most of these bills must, from the dates of them, have been indorsed after John had assumed the management of his brother's affairs, and was in possession of his rents; so that the presumption in law is, that they were paid out of Robert's own money, unless the contrary be instructed.

The next article can far less be taken on John's word, without some further explanation or voucher. It is a bill accept-
ed

ed, by Robert to John, of date December 10. 1761, for no less than *L. 142 Sterling*. This is a very large sum; and as the bill appears to have been taken by John from his brother at a time when he was acting as his factor or manager, the petitioner does, with submission, apprehend, that it is but reasonable, that John should give some account of the value given for this bill. The same thing is to be said of the subsequent article, being another bill of *L. 3. 3 s. 8 d.* dated only a few days after the former. The petitioner demands only that John should produce the vouchers which he has, or ought to have, for supporting these articles, and for showing that the heritable bond of *L. 236* was not elicited without value from a weak and facile man under his care.

And what renders this the more proper, is, the suspicious way in which the account has been made up: for it is plain, from the date of the docket, that there was no account or clearance at the time of taking the heritable bond, nor for three years after, till upon the 2d April 1765, when the account of charge and discharge now produced was manufactured: and the reason why this measure was at last thought of, was, that in a process depending between the parties before the Lord Gardenston Ordinary, a condescendence was given in by the petitioner in March 1765, of the same tenor with that which has since been exhibited in the present action, with a view of procuring a judicial interdiction of Robert, but which was not afterwards insisted in, because it was thought more adviseable to bring the present process against him and his nearest of kin, expressly for that purpose.

The second part of the account contains a variety of articles of charge and discharge. John credits himself with payments made for Robert's board, his seat in the church, his mother's annuity, &c. but no vouchers are produced.

In the other side of the account, he debits himself with the cash received out of Robert's estate, for part of crop 1760, and for crops 1761, 1762, 1763, and part of 1764; including

holding at least four crops, and the whole amount of those four years' rents, he makes only £. 113, or £. 28, 3 s. yearly, though, upon inquiry, it will appear, that the rent is about £. 70 yearly; so that there is above one half of his brother's rents for these years not accounted for. It is somewhat singular too, that when he took the heritable bond, of date 9th January 1762, he gave no credit for the articles of rent received for crop 1760 and 1761, which certainly were in his hands at that time.

A balance is drawn out in John's favour, upon this second account, which being added to the debt formerly supposed due, and interest, &c. raises the total amount to £. 310 Sterling; for which John takes a new heritable bond of corroboration from Robert, of date 2d April 1765. The docket is wrote with Robert Moir's hand, and witnessed by two gentlemen of business, in order to give the transaction a sort of favourable appearance; but it is submitted to your Lordships, whether enough does not appear from the whole complexion of the affair to render a further explication highly proper, more especially as it appears altogether unaccountable that Robert should have contracted so much debt since he fell into the hands of his brother, as his estate is at least £. 70 per annum, out of which he pays only £. 20 a-year to his mother, and he is himself boarded for £. 18 a-year, so that there remains above £. 30 a-year for his cloaths and pocket-money. It is true there is a debt upon him of £. 222, 4 s. 5 d. to his younger brother and sisters; but this does not at present bear interest, nor is it payable till the next term after his mother's death.

It was also insinuated, that as, from the father's disposition, and list of debts relative thereto, it appeared, that Robert had taken the burden of debts, to the extent of £. 6052, 13 s. 4 d. Scots, all which were now cleared off; and as he was only now owing the above sum of £. 310 to his brother, and another debt, acknowledged before the Lord Ordinary,

of

of John, is followed of consequence, that Robert's circum-
 stances had rather been improved under the management of
 John. But this observation, so far from aiding the defendant,
 serves as an additional proof of the unfair advantage which is
 endeavoured to be taken of this unhappy man's situation. The
 whole of these debts were paid and discharged out of Ro-
 bert's money, long before John had the management of him.
 Before obtaining the disposition from his father, which was
 in the 1734, Robert had been a writer in tolerable practice,
 by which he had made some money, and was in the way of
 making more. This was the very reason of disposing the
 lands to him, with the burden of the debts, which he propo-
 sed immediately to clear off. By the docket subjoined to the
 list of debts, of the same date with the disposition, he obliges
 himself to relieve his father of these debts: and having accord-
 ingly paid them off by degrees, and at different times, out of
 the money which he saved in the course of business, your
 Lordships will be informed, that there is another docket of a
 posterior date subjoined to the list, in these words: "I James
 Moir of Lochfield, do hereby acknowledge and declare,
 That Robert Moir writer in Edinburgh, my eldest son, has
 satisfied and paid my debts contained in the beforewritten
 list, according to the obligation therein mentioned. In
 witness whereof, I have written and subscribed these pre-
 sents, at Ales, the fifth day of June 1750 years. Signed,
 J. Moir." It seems clear therefore, that the whole
 of the debts which Robert now owes have been contracted
 since he fell into John's hands; and these contractions have
 not the better aspect, that John himself is the creditor in
 them. Another thing to be remarked in the account of charge
 and discharge, is, That not a word is said of any rents re-
 ceived since August 1764. It would be proper to explain
 what has become of the rents since that time. John is plea-
 sed to say, That he gave up the factory, and has now no con-

cern with his brother's affairs. But this is a mere pretence. Why does he not condescend who the present factor is? It is believed, upon inquiry, the fact will turn out to be, that, about the time of giving in the condescendence above mentioned, John perceiving that he would be called to account, transferred the factory, in appearance, from himself to one James Moir in Down, an intimate friend of his own, who acts for him, and is subject to his direction: but he himself is the real factor, though James is the nominal one.

The petitioner is sorry to say, that these transactions, when considered, will appear not much to the credit of John, who has plainly taken bills and bonds from his brother for considerable sums, without any apparent value: and it can be proved, that, within these three or four years, John took measures for getting a disposition from his brother of his whole heritage: but having employed a gentleman of character to extend the writing, the gentleman very properly refused to have any hand in it till certain friends were consulted; and the scheme was for that time frustrated.

It is submitted, therefore, if, from the materials already in process, there is not sufficient ground for a judicial interdiction. The petitioner is uncertain if a verdict cognoscing his brother would easily be obtained, as he has still the appearance of some degree of reason, though he is precisely in the state described by Lord Stair and other lawyers in treating of this subject. He is a weak, facile man, liable to be imposed on, totally incapable of judging for himself; and, from the facts above stated, it appears, that he has already subjected himself to the payment of considerable sums, for which it is impossible that any adequate value could have been given. By the Roman law little distinction was made between a prodigal and an idiot or furious person. Curators were given to both in the same manner and by the same forms. By our own law it appears, from the very style of a brieve of furiosity, that prodigals, as well as insane or furious persons, may be cognosced

needed by an inquest. At the same time, the law has provided another and more gentle remedy in such cases, which is a judicial interdiction at the sight of the nearest of kin, who are made parties to the process. And it does not appear, either from the decisions of your Lordships, or from the authority of lawyers, that this remedy is confined to what may be, strictly speaking, denominated prodigality, arising from intemperance or vice, without any mixture of fatuity: it is enough if the party be weak, lavish, and subject to be imposed on, whether proceeding from incapacity of mind, or any other cause. In the present case the petitioner does aver and say, That, partly from disorder of mind, and partly from intemperance, his brother Robert has been reduced to such a state, that he is incapable of managing his affairs; that he is a very weak facile man, liable to imposition: and, from the facts above stated, there is too much reason to conclude, that he has actually been imposed on, and has squandered away a considerable part of his substance.

The petitioner does at least apprehend, that he has a just and natural title to be at the bottom of these transactions, and that he is called on, by the duty he owes both to his brother and to his own family, to do what lies in his power to have this unfortunate man put under proper management.

May it therefore please your Lordships, to alter the Lord Ordinary's interlocutors; and either, 1mo, Upon the materials already before you, to lay the defender Robert Moir under judicial interdiction; Or, 2do, to allow a further proof to the petitioner of Robert's facility, and of the other facts above stated, tending to show that he is a weak, lavish man, and a proper object of interdiction; and at the same time, to ordain both the defenders to produce the two heritable bonds, the retired vouchers, and discharges of the father's debts, the vouchers, if they any have, of the account of charge and discharge; and particularly, to condescend on the value given for the two bills

Robert's account of the rents of Robert's estate, from the
more special account of the rents of Robert's estate, from the
more special account of the rents of Robert's estate, from the

According to justice
not to be paid, and subject to be paid

ALL CAMPBELL
on the basis of this account, the balance of the account does not
show a balance in favor of the estate, but a balance in favor of
the estate, and the balance of the account is in favor of the estate
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Principal and interest in January 1702
To Robert Moore's account dated 11th January 1702, being 10 days
interest thereof from 12th December 1701 to 11th January 1702,
being 10 days, payable one day after date

Principal and interest in January 1702
To Robert Moore's account dated 11th January 1702, being 10 days
interest thereof from 12th December 1701 to 11th January 1702,
being 10 days, payable one day after date

NOTE

To Robert Moore's account dated 11th January 1702, being 10 days
interest thereof from 12th December 1701 to 11th January 1702,
being 10 days, payable one day after date

To Robert Moore's account dated 11th January 1702, being 10 days
interest thereof from 12th December 1701 to 11th January 1702,
being 10 days, payable one day after date

Carried forward
D

142 7 0
220 1 3

NOTE of the debt due by Robert Moir, writer in Edinburgh, to John Moir, merchant there, preceding the 1st day of January 1762, and

To Robert Moir's accepted bill to David Gourlay of Kintyre, dated 1st August 1752, payable at Candlemas thereafter, indorsed by him to John Moir.

To interest thereof from Candlemas 1753 to 22d May

1754, being 1 year 109 days

Paid said 22d May 1754, as marked on the bill

To interest of this balance from 22d May, to

26th October 1754, being 175 days

Paid said 26th October 1754, as marked on the

bill

To interest of this balance from 26th October

1754 to 1st January 1762, being 7 years 66

days

Total interest

Principal and interest 1 January 1762

To Robert Moir's other accepted bill to said David Gour-

lay, dated 22d February 1760, payable one day after

date, and indorsed to said John Moir

To interest thereof from 23d February 1760 to 1st Ja-

nuary 1762, being two years, after deduction of 53

days

Principal and interest 1st January 1762

To Robert Moir's accepted bill to Thomas Boswal, writer

in Edinburgh, dated 2d May 1759, payable eight days

after date, and indorsed by him to said John Moir

To interest thereof from 11th May 1759 to 1st January

1762, being two years 234 days

To Robert Moir's accepted bill to Thomas Boswal, writer

in Edinburgh, dated 4th August 1761, payable at Mar-

tinmas thereafter, and indorsed by him to said John

Moir

To interest thereof from Martinmas or 11th November

1761 to 1st January 1762, being 51 days

Principal and interest 1 January 1762

To Robert Moir's accepted bill to said John Moir, dated

10th December 1761, payable one day after date

To interest thereof from 12th December 1761 to 1st Ja-

nuary 1762, being 19 days

Principal and interest 1 January 1762

Carried forward

D

226 1 7

Brought forward 226 1 2
 To Robert Moir's other accepted bill to said John Moir
 dated 15th December 1761, payable one day thereafter 3 3 8
 Total amount of debts principal and interest 1st January 1762 229 5 3
 To cash paid by John Moir to Rob. Moir to make the sum even money 00 14 0
 230 00 0

Edinburgh, the 2d of April 1765. The above is a note or calcul of the debts, principal and interest, due by the said Robert Moir to his brother John, preceding the first day of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two years; and for which the said Robert Moir granted an heritable bond to the said John Moir, of date the ninth day of the said month of January. And though the most of the grounds of debt are discharged on the back, so as they might not militate against the said Robert Moir, yet they remain in the hands of the said John Moir, to instruct the onerosity of the said heritable bond, which is mutually acknowledged by us.

(Signed) ROBERT MOIR.
 JOHN MOIR.

An Account betwixt the said Robert and John Moirs, since settling the preceding.

1762.	To cash given you	45 5 0
Jan.	To paid Mrs Macgregor, per order and receipt	00 1 0
Feb.	To ditto given you	0 9 6
March	To ditto paid James Moir, writer in Down, for infestment, per receipt.	1 6 6
	To ditto paid John Foulis	1 00 0
	To ditto given you	0 4 6
April	To ditto	1 9 0
May	To ditto paid Mrs Addison	3 00 0
	To ditto given you	0 7 0
June	To ditto	1 00 4
	To ditto paid Mackenzie	0 5 0
	To ditto paid Mrs Addison	1 00 0
July	To ditto paid ditto	3 00 0
	To ditto paid ditto in full, per account discharged	3 5 10
	To ditto paid Mackenzie, per ditto	0 19 3
	To ditto given you	0 4 0
Aug.	To ditto	0 13 6
Sept.	To ditto	0 4 6
Oct.	To ditto	0 13 0
Nov.	1. To ditto paid Mrs Saunders	1 00 0
	9. To ditto paid Mrs Addison	3 00 0
	To ditto paid John Moir, per assignation	5 10 3
	27. To ditto paid Mrs Macgregor for washing, per account discharged	0 17 6

Carried forward 37 14 8

3. 16 = 15 = 10.
 1. 5 = - -
 2. 2
 3 = 5 = 10.
 3. 3 = 2 = 9.
 3. 26 = 10 = 7. From May. 1762 to July 1763

Brought forward		82 3 12
March 21.	To account of cloaths, &c. furnished you, and account attested	19 8 2 1/2
	To cash paid my mother her annuity due to her, at each of the terms of Whitsunday 1761, 1762, 1763, and 1764, being 4 years, L. 20 : 8 : 4 Sterling each year, per discharge	81 13 14
25.	To cash given Robert Moir of this date	2 6 10
		185 16 6 1/2

RECEIVED by John Moir of the rents of Robert Moir's lands, in order to pay his mother's annuity, for Robert's subsistence, and other outgivings on his account, as in the debit.

		Robert Moir	Cr.
		By cash from James Moir in Down, in part of crop 1760	L. 28 12 11
		By ditto from ditto, crop 1761	20 12 7½
1763.		By ditto from ditto	17 00 0
July 22.		By ditto from ditto	24 00 0
Mar. 1. 64.		By ditto from ditto	32 00 0
Aug. 10.		By ditto from yourself	22 00 0
		By balance due by Robert Moir to John Moir	41 10 0
			185 16 6½

The account on the above two and two preceding pages (*in the manuscript*) being this day settled and adjusted betwixt the said Robert and John Moirs, there is a balance of forty-one pounds ten shillings *Sterling*, due by the said Robert to the said John Moir; which balance, with the principal sum of two hundred and thirty pounds *Sterling*, contained in an heritable bond by the said Robert to the said John Moir, dated the ninth day of January one thousand seven hundred and sixty two and three years, four months and an half's interest due thereon, preceding the term of Whitsunday next, being thirty-eight pounds ten shillings *Sterling*, makes in all three hundred and ten pounds money foreaid; for which the said Robert Moir hath, of this date, granted an heritable bond of corroboration to the said John Moir; and therefore this account is mutually discharged; the vouchers of such of the articles in the debit, as are marked to be vouched, being allowed to remain in the hands of the said John Moir. In witness whereof, the said Robert and John Moirs have subscribed this docket (written by the said Robert Moir), at Edinburgh, the second day of April one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five years, before these witnesses, Charles Guthrie writer in Edinburgh, Charles Dall writer to the signet, and John Jolly his clerk.

(Signed) CHARLES GUTHRIE witness. (Signed) ROBERT MOIR.
CHARLES DALL witness. JOHN MOIR.
JOHN JOLLY witness